SRI K. H. PATIL :— Attempts are being made to place it as early aspossible. The moment the report is received from the Public Service Commission, if there are any rectifications to be made, they will have to be brought before the Cabinet. All these ingredients require certain period. Therefore the Government will be keen to place it as early as possible.

MADAM SPEAKER :— Questions 222 and 309 may be taken up together.

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

222 SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort) :—

Will the Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the prices of essential commodities in the State are rising up day by day ;

(*b*) if so, the action taken to arrest the steep rise in prices ?

SMT. E. E. VAZ (Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies) :—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rice, wheat, wheat products, sugar, maize bajra and jowar are being sold at fixed prices, through Fair Price Shops. Truck tyres of the sizes 825 × 20, 900 × 20 and 1000 × 20 are sold at the fixed prices by issue of permits by competent authorities. Cotton coarse cloth like sarees, dhoties, long cloth, shirting and drill is also sold at fixed prices through the Co-operative Institutions.

Statutory prices have been fixed in respect of vanaspati kerosene, petroleum products and automobile tyres.

In respect of other essential commodities like Babyfood, cycle tyres, dry cells for torches, dry cells and batteries for transistor radios, statutory orders have been issued making it obligatory on the part of dealers to exhibit prices and maintain proper accounts.

Strict vigilance is kept to ensure compliance of the various control orders made under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and violations are dealt with as per law.